

The Farmington Times.

VOL. 4

FARMINGTON, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1920

NO. 12

Notice, Auto Owners

Notice is hereby given to all auto owners that the law requires you to have affixed the proper license tag on your cars for 1920; and the law further requires me to report and arrest persons not complying with the law.

Please, therefore, see that your cars are properly tagged before driving them upon the public highways.

Respectfully,

C. H. ADAMS, Sheriff.

A Remarkable Patient

Sheriff McNeil, of Bloomfield, Stoddard county, on Tuesday arrived at State Hospital No. 4, and placed in that institution for treatment and care, a most remarkable patient. The records disclose the fact that this recent arrival is 107 years old, he having been born in Old Mexico in the year 1813, and that he has thirty-two direct descendants. He wears a long white beard, and is able to walk about unassisted.

This is the oldest individual that has ever been received in that institution, which fact will give him considerable distinction.

Our Patriotic Duty

We were more than astonished when the men were drafted for service in the great war when we found one-half were illiterate. Many of our boys who came back not fit for professional labor were also not fit for the smallest degree; many could not read or write. Was it their fault? No, it was yours and mine. You, who induced the boy to work for a pauper's sum, kept him out of school until he was so large or old that he was ashamed to go. What do dollars and cents amount to that man now? He would give all the money he ever earned to have an education equal to an eighth-grader.

Let us correct the mistake of the generation just past and make amends in some small way by doing our part in educating our boys and girls, making them self-sustaining and self-supporting, in time of war or in time of peace.

We have in this county of St. Francois a Truant Officer who is efficient in every way. But do we do our part to help him perfect the work he has been placed to do? I am afraid we do not co-operate with him as we should.

We see boys and, I am sorry to say, girls on the streets of Farmington who should be in school, and I am sure the same thing is going on in other towns of our county. This is no fault of our officer, for he cannot watch all the places that is his duty to look after at the same time. But if we have the welfare of the future citizens of our county at heart, we will report to the Truant Officer all children we find out of school that should be in. It is our patriotic duty.

We have ceased to be world leaders in the education of the average child for citizenship, happiness and success. We do not see that they take advantage of the educational opportunities that are presented to them.

Statistics show that 60 per cent of the future citizens of the United States are children in the rural schools. We have learned a great lesson. It is up to us in our small way to help elevate our citizenship above any other in the world.

We must not gamble with the future of the children, but must make their foundation sure by giving them at least a high school education that is in the reach of all.

BOXING AND WRESTLING CARNIVAL

Followers of sport are to be given a rare treat next Tuesday night at Flat River when the American Legion Post will stage their boxing and wrestling carnival. This promises to be the greatest thing along athletic lines ever staged in this part of the State, as the Legion Committee, in charge of the affair is sparing neither time nor expense to make this event a success. Three boxing exhibitions and three wrestling matches—three of each—count 'em—are to be put on while a fine six-piece orchestra will furnish music throughout the evening.

Among the athletes who are billed to perform are the following: Willie Colona, the fighting "wop" of St. Louis, who has earned decisions over some of the country's best light weights; Billy Collins, wrestler, claimant for the U. S. Army championship at his weight; Battling Fiescher of DeSoto, Jess Carrow of DeSloge and a number of others.

Boxing instilled the spirit in the American youth that enabled him to crush the Hun, and this show will be a good clean exhibition of the manly art of self-defense.

A show for ladies as well as gentlemen. Don't miss it. Buy your tickets in advance to avoid the rush.

Plenty of moisture just now. In fact, we could spare some, and not miss it.

What Would You Suggest?

The present terrible condition of some of the roads of St. Francois county force them into public attention. Their present almost impassable condition makes further ignorance of their real condition altogether impossible. In some of the worst places, often on the roads that were rocked only a few years ago, and some of which are now practically impassable, the rock surfacing has been practically worn away and such places no longer have any road bed. The depth to which a vehicle may sink in such places is only limited by the amount of travel that has recently passed that way, or it may be that a solid rock bottom has finally been found to prevent the vehicle from sinking entirely out of sight.

What is to be done under existing conditions in this county? That is the all-important question for immediate solution. The amount of money that is available in St. Francois county at this time for road improvement makes it practically impossible to permanently repair even the roads that are already worn out. All that can possibly be done with the means now at hand is to fill in such places with rock or some other suitable material in order to make travel over them reasonably safe. But such filling can only be of a temporary nature, and such work will, in all probability, have to be repeated at frequent intervals.

To this paper it appears that if attempts were made to repair such places with a rock foundation that might be permanent, but that such foundation would answer when a thorough system of hard surface roads is undertaken in this county. Then, again: Would it not be a good idea to start the necessary preliminaries immediately toward securing a vote on a suitable good roads bond issue to the taxpayers of this county. It might be well to postpone the beginning of actual work on a county good roads system until there is a more settled condition of costs, both in regard to labor and material. But if such a bond issue were authorized to be made, then the matter could be permitted to rest until the time for beginning such work seems opportune. Then no hurry would be necessary, either in the sale of such bonds or in the purchase of necessary material. Would not the securing of such conditions be necessary and valuable, if the fullest benefit from such bond authorization is to be secured?

What do you, Mr. Times Reader, think of this all-important matter? The Times would be pleased to hear from any one on this better roads subject.

"LET'S LIFT MISSOURI OUT OF THE MUD"

The annual convention of the Missouri State-wide Hard Roads Association is hereby called to be held in the Public Library Auditorium, Jefferson City, on Friday, April 9. A full corps of officers and directors will be elected and plans formulated for a statewide educational campaign on behalf of the \$60,000,000 State Road Bond Issue. The "get acquainted" session will convene at 10 a. m. and the regular business session at 2 p. m.

Every County Court in the State is urged to be officially represented, likewise every City Council, every Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Club and every civic body of men and women willing to help lift Missouri out of the mud. All Highway Engineers and Roads officials are invited to be present and the hearty co-operation of the press of the State is earnestly desired for the success of this convention.

J. H. SCARBOROUGH, Acting President.
M. V. CARROLL, Sec.

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD VOTE

The way to get the best results from equal suffrage is to secure the fullest possible participation by the women. Every woman should vote, whether she had previously believed in her right to vote or not. A civic obligation is created, and she should meet it in the same noble way that she meets her individual obligations as a home maker, in society and in churches and clubs. The best method whereby the participation of women may be obtained is by making place for them on party committees and in party gatherings. All this should need no argument, and it is greatly to be hoped that the opposition which has developed in Missouri may be quieted. Our obstinate friends had just as well accept the inevitable and get in line.

And the next day it rained.

Public School Crisis

Many of the best teachers of our public schools are resigning to enter into other callings and many more are contemplating such a move because of the inadequate salaries they receive. The school has not lost attractiveness to them nor has their interest waned in educational work and its far-reaching influence. There are sacrifices for the general good which even the most altruistic teacher should not be expected to make. His own well-being and that of those dependent upon him must be taken into account. Teaching has never been one of the remunerative callings or professions. The labor and application required to properly equip a teacher and make him an efficient and responsible instructor for the youth of our land, if applied in some other practical direction would give promise of large material advantage in life and surround him with more comfort and less moral responsibility to the community at large. But your true teacher is drawn to his calling by a higher and more altruistic ideal, and he is willing to make some sacrifice of the things which a majority of mankind hold as the chief aim in life.

Although the salaries paid our public school teachers always have been abnormally low, they have struggled on, striving always for better efficiency and mental equipment in spite of that handicap. But a great financial change and industrial unrest has overtaken us as well as the balance of the world. We have just passed through the throes of a destructive world war. Our Government has floated billions of dollars in bonds which the people in their patriotic war ardor have taken up. The Government has been compelled to place premiums upon all sorts of necessary manufactures, food stuffs and destructive implements of war, until the prices on everything have soared and our currency circulation has been so inflated that the normal dollar has lost fully one-half of its former purchasing value. Teachers as well as others working on pre-war salaries cannot in the circumstances meet the demands of even a modest standard of living based on American ideas of comfort. And so, unless there is some decided encouragement held out to them to tide them over the difficult and abnormal financial condition that confronts us today, more of our best teachers will be seeking other avenues of business in which they can better meet the requirements of living, and our schools will be robbed of a large percentage of their efficiency. What that would mean to the present and following generations is not a pleasant reflection.

Every school district in city, town and rural community must make an earnest effort to meet the situation, retain our best teachers and encourage others to prepare themselves for this most important work of the whole country—the preparation of our youth to carry on. You people of Farmington and St. Francois county should have your minds and hearts impressed with this fact in a way that you will keenly realize that it is your personal duty—a responsibility that rests upon each individual—to see that our public schools are maintained and kept up to the very highest standards. Our public school system is not only the best but the most economical that ever has been devised. Just think for a moment how little it costs you under this benign institution to give your children the very best educational advantages.

Talking with the head of a family along this line only a few days ago, he was asked how much his annual school tax was. After a little calculation he replied \$30.25. How many children have you in school? Four, he said. There you have it—only \$7.26 a year for each child he sends to school. Suppose we were dependent upon private institutions for the education of our children—that there were no universal public school system. It would cost him an average of \$3.00 or \$4.00 a month for each of his four children—about \$30.00 for each for a nine-months term or \$120.00 for the four, as against \$30.25 which he now pays, and then his children would not have the advantage of our excellent high school training; for that it would cost him much more. Only the wealthy and well-to-do could afford to give their children a liberal education.

The average head of a family in this district probably pays in school taxes about \$15.00 a year, and there is probably an average of three children of school age in each family. That would make the average cost of each child's tuition for nine months only \$5.00, with all the advantages of the eight grades and the high school. Now, what the Farmington school district needs is about \$3,000.00 additional revenue in order to pay our excellent corps of teachers reasonable and living salaries to retain them or seek positions elsewhere where better salaries are offered them. The way to get this revenue is to have all property properly and equally assessed, and if this is not sufficient to bring in the amount of revenue needed under the constitutional rate of taxation—and it doubtless is not—then vote an additional tax rate that will bring it in. To do that is even a more patriotic duty than was the buying of Liberty Bonds during the war, and just as safe and necessary an investment for the future welfare of our country.

SALARY RAISE

Several of the officers at State Hospital No. 4 have received notice that the Governor and State Auditor have granted them small increases in salaries, dating from January 1, 1920. Such action was taken in order to make the salaries of similar officers in the various institutions of the State uniform, which is right and proper.

It appears that the officers at State Hospital No. 4 have been giving their entire time to looking after the best interests of that institution, instead of looking after an increase in their salaries. But when the discrepancy in this matter was noticed, those in authority were pleased to correct such error.

The Overseas Orchestra, composed of six young ladies, the final number of the High School Lyceum course, appeared before a fair audience Tuesday evening in the High School Auditorium. This proved to be the best number of the course, each member proving to be a skillful musician, and the entire program was greatly enjoyed.

Public life, however, did not appeal to him, so in 1849, being unmarried, he was attracted by the legends to the gold fields of California. He crossed the plains with a caravan of gold seekers and after several months reached his goal, where he succeeded in accumulating a nice little bag of gold nuggets. Returning home by water, via the Isthmus of Panama, he and some others formed a company, bought about 900 head of cattle, and in 1852 started across the plains with them for California. It was a tedious trip, accompanied by hardships and dangers, and they lost more than one-third of their cattle in crossing the sterile deserts and by Indian depredations. It proved anything but a profitable venture. Again he started home by water. The ship in which he sailed was wrecked in the Caribbean sea and he and thirty-six others were marooned on a desolate rocky island for thirty-six days, subsisting principally or altogether on sea gull eggs, before they were rescued by a passing ship.

Home again, he resumed his occupation of farming, and in 1855 was married to Mrs. Anna E. Tate, a native of Polk county, Mo., and a daughter of William and Millie A. Campbell. Since then he has led the even tenor of his way, interested in both his own affairs and those of his neighbors and the country. A man of rare and upright traits of character, he was respected and trusted by all who came within his sphere of influence, and prospered as he deserved. There were born to his marriage five children: Ella L. (Mrs. J. F. Flowers), William Thomas, Margaret (Mrs. Edward Byington), Harvey B. and Oscar L., all of whom are living. His wife died February 4, 1898, and soon after he retired from active farming. In Dec. 1899, he made his home in Farmington, and about eleven years ago he fell and broke one of his hips, and has since been confined to his rooms at the home of his daughters, Mrs. Flowers and Mrs. Byington. Notwithstanding extreme age, all these years he has borne his affliction with wonderful patience and even cheer-

fulness. His friends were always welcomed with a pleasant smile and hearty greeting, and he liked to talk of current events, with which he kept well posted by reading the papers, rather than reverting to the past. He retained and continues to retain all of the senses to a remarkable degree, and though he does not read much now, when he does he has no need of glasses to assist his vision.

Venerable old gentleman—one of nature's noblemen—a century of years behind him with all their fullness of activity and experiences, he stands at the threshold of his second century. But not as at the beginning, with the ardor, the aspirations and the hopes of his youth. He looks forward and sees another vision. As the sun goes down he knows that the stars will shine, and as they fade out in the coming dawn that a glorious morn will greet his soul and this time life will merge into the life eternal and go on forever.

T. D. F.

Freemont Jones, better known throughout the country as "Michigan" Jones, returned the last of the week, after a lengthy visit with his family in Detroit, to resume operations in the mineral fields in this county, in which industry he has been very successful for several years past.

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Lives to Greet a Second Century

Thomas Harvey Haile, our venerable and revered townsman, last Monday, March 15, 1920, passed his hundredth birthday anniversary, and entered upon his second century, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edward Byington. Mr. Haile was born March 15, 1820, in what is now St. Francois county, and reared on a farm near Big River. Missouri had not then been formally admitted into the Union as a State, but in that year a convention was held under act of Congress to frame a State Constitution, though formal admission was not proclaimed until August, 1821. St. Francois county was subsequently formed out of parts of Ste. Genevieve county and adjacent territory.

Mr. Haile's hundredth anniversary was observed and celebrated by his children and many of his friends in sending floral and other gifts, cards and messages of love and good will. An incident of the day in the way of uniqueness was a long congratulatory letter from Rev. Geo. W. Harlan, who is rounding out his ninety-seventh year. These two aged and remarkable men have been for many years warm personal friends, enjoying each other's society and confidence as co-religionists—both being devoted Christians of the Presbyterian faith—and as life-long Democrats in political principles. Mr. Harlan was not able to call on his old friend on this occasion, but the last time they met, when they parted they put their arms about each other like loving comrades and kissed each other—no, not goodbye, but au revoir.

Among the gifts several are worth particular mention: One from Dr. and Mrs. Brad J. Robinson—a beautiful floral display of one hundred carnations with one special beauty in the center "to grow on." Then there was a large birthday cake decorated with one hundred small wax candles and a larger central one to mark the first year of his second century, the gift of Mrs. John L. Swink. Mrs. Carrie Elchorn of St. Louis came down especially to be present on this occasion and presented Mr. Haile with a delightfully comfortable lounge robe. As it was wrapped about him he said, "one ought to want to live a hundred years for this." A beautiful basket of flowers was sent by the Presbyterian church, gifts of fruit from Florida by his son, W. T. Haile, and there were potted plants and other tokens of regard. It was an all-day reception and refreshments were served all callers in a most graciously pressing manner by Mrs. Byington.

Born in St. Francois county a hundred years ago, Mr. Haile's life has been closely identified with its growth and progress all these years, if two or three years spent in the early gold exodus to California may be excepted. His father, Thomas Haile, a native South Carolinian, came to this territory at an early date and subsequently married Mrs. Margaret Montgomery (born Eads), a native of the Missouri territory, and Thomas Harvey spent the period preceding his twentieth year on the farm with his parents. At that age he began farming on his own account in Perry township. He served the county as Assessor shortly after this, but the emoluments of the office were not what they are now. The assessable wealth of the county was small and he received for his work about \$60. In 1844, at the age of 24 years, he was elected to represent St. Francois county in the General Assembly of the State, in which capacity he served one term.

Public life, however, did not appeal to him, so in 1849, being unmarried, he was attracted by the legends to the gold fields of California. He crossed the plains with a caravan of gold seekers and after several months reached his goal, where he succeeded in accumulating a nice little bag of gold nuggets. Returning home by water, via the Isthmus of Panama, he and some others formed a company, bought about 900 head of cattle, and in 1852 started across the plains with them for California. It was a tedious trip, accompanied by hardships and dangers, and they lost more than one-third of their cattle in crossing the sterile deserts and by Indian depredations. It proved anything but a profitable venture. Again he started home by water. The ship in which he sailed was wrecked in the Caribbean sea and he and thirty-six others were marooned on a desolate rocky island for thirty-six days, subsisting principally or altogether on sea gull eggs, before they were rescued by a passing ship.

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An Enthusiastic, Splendid Meeting

It was a splendid gathering that assembled at the court house in this city last Saturday morning for an all-day meeting of the School Board members of the county. Not only was the gathering unusually large, but it was thoroughly representative, as practically all the school districts in the county were represented by one or more board members, patrons or teachers.

The great importance of the meeting was the urgency of immediate action for providing better pay for school teachers, which has long been apparent must be done, in view of the fact that many of the best qualified teachers have already left this county, having been drawn elsewhere by better paying positions.

For the past year or more many county schools have been forced to take anyone they could get to teach their school, while at the same time certificates have been issued to some who were in reality not entitled to them, only in order to relieve the great stress for teachers. Information was given out at Saturday's meeting that not only St. Francois county, but the entire State of Missouri, is being stripped of many of the best teachers, owing to inferior wages in these stressful times. It is only natural, therefore, that their places must be filled with the best material at hand.

It was quite apparent throughout the meeting that the feeling was practically unanimous that there must be immediate arrangements made whereby a material advance in the pay of school teachers could be made. One speaker advocated as a minimum wage, in the poorest country district, of \$100 a month, and such expression met with considerable applause. The realization appeared to be general that it was now "up to" the parents and taxpayers to increase the salaries of teachers in these days of inflated prices, if the very foundations of the government are to be kept intact.

Just before the meeting adjourned the following resolutions were adopted without a dissenting vote:

First—That we memorialize the County Court to provide a place of detention adequate to care for the delinquent and neglected children of St. Francois county.

Second—That it is the sense of this Convention that all school districts in St. Francois county having an enumeration of less than twenty pupils of school age, should be abandoned, and the territory thereof combined with some adjacent district; and wherever necessary, transportation of the children to and from school should be provided.

Third—That the County Superintendent of Schools should be enabled to attend Educational Conventions of our State at the expense of the county.

Fourth—To help solve the teacher shortage problem we offer the following solution:

(a) The adoption of the proposed Constitutional Amendment permitting the rural school boards to vote 100 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation.

(b) Until adequate school funds can be raised by the levy of the increased rate we recommend that all schools vote a building and repair tax under Section 10797, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1909, and transfer the balance remaining after the purpose for which said fund was levied is accomplished to the incidental fund, according to Section 10857, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1909. By providing for the incidental expense in this manner, Boards of Education may make their estimate filed with the County Clerk include in the teachers' fund all the levy under Section 10791 for teachers and incidentals.

(c) That we call upon the County Assessor, the County Board of Equalization and the County Court of St. Francois county to take the necessary steps to see that all taxable property in the county is assessed; and that the local and State Boards of Equalization be requested to do all in their power to see that all assessable property in the State is assessed at its full value, as provided by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Missouri. CHAS. SCHUTTLER, Chairman, C. I. GARRETT, F. O. BUXTON, Committee on Resolutions.

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KAHN'S

LEADING STORE OF THE LEAD BELT

Desloge, Mo.

Announcing the Spring Opening and Style Exhibit of

Easter Apparel

Saturday, March 20th.

Carnations presented on opening day.

The showing will include all the new models in—

Suits, Coats, Blouses, Dresses, Skirts, Shoes.

Also a very interesting display of Millinery, which is a marvel of completeness in variety of colorings and styles.

KAHN'S

